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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: November 26, 2012

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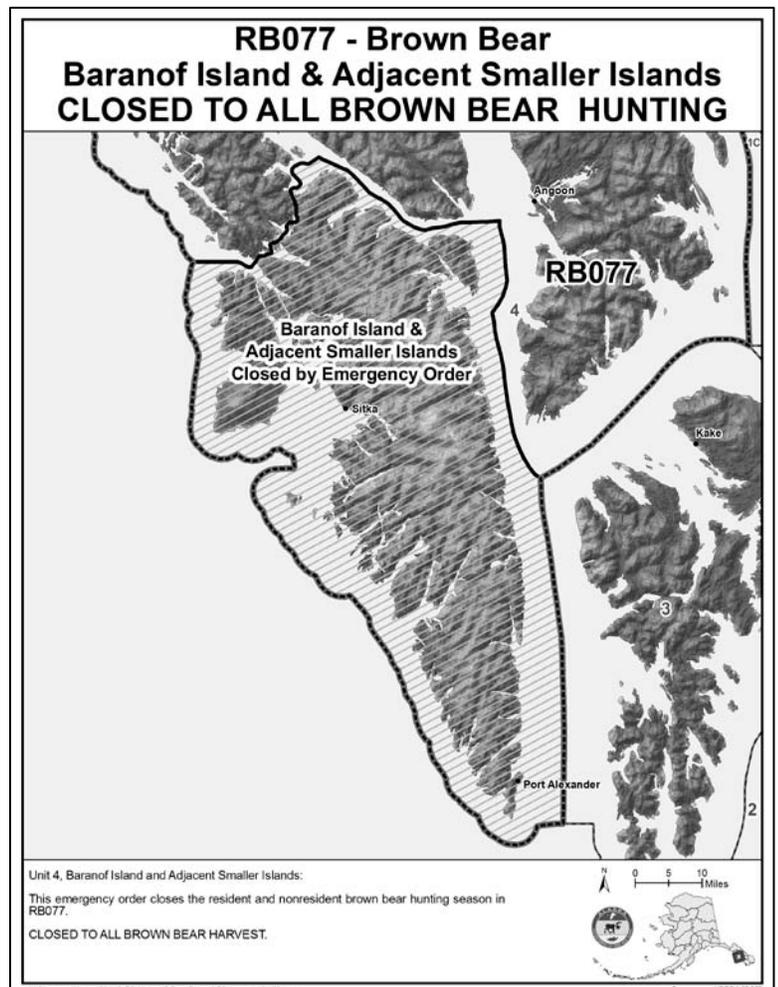
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Baranof Island and Adjacent Smaller Islands Closed to Brown Bear Hunting

(Sitka) – Biologists have set a maximum mortality objective of 8 male or 2 female brown bears allowed for the Baranof Island portion of the Unit 4 fall registration brown bear hunt (RB077). High mortality of female bears in this area in previous years has prompted this objective. As of Monday, November 26, 2012, nine female bears have been killed. Because the guideline mortality objective for female bears has been exceeded in this area, an emergency order is being issued to close the brown bear hunting season at 11:59 pm, Wednesday, November 28, 2012. This emergency order action is necessary to restrict the mortality to the guideline level and prevent additional mortality in this area. Any additional mortality of female bears could have long term negative effects on this bear population.

An emergency order (01-13-12) has been issued to close the brown bear season in this area at 11:59 pm, Wednesday, November 28, 2012.

All other Unit 4 brown bear regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order. For additional information, please contact the Sitka area office at (907) 747-5449.



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